

## **A Special Investigative Report**

### **Over 20 Dens Of Jihadist Fulani Terror Discovered In Communities Of Ezeagu In Enugu State**

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#### **Over 20 Dens Of Jihadist Fulani Terror Discovered In Communities Of Ezeagu In Enugu State: Team Intersociety (International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law: <https://intersociety-ng.org>)**

recently made a shocking discovery of more than 20 Dens (Camps) of Jihadist Fulani Terror manned by invader-Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen in many forests belonging to Communities of Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State. The **Dens of Terror** are also found to have been structurally divided into six layers, with each camp coordinated by a Fulani Alhaji who is also a member of the Nigerian security forces-protected Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria-MACABAN and placed in charge of a group of Ezeagu forests and their living environs-with his herds of cattle roaming freely and destroying lives, properties and livelihoods unchecked and with reckless abandon. The six-layered Jihadist Fulani structures are also generally linked to the Ajali River and its Valley as their terror headquarters from where jihadist activities are coordinated and spread across the affected fourteen Ezeagu Communities and their villages; out of which Ezeagu Communities and Villages of Imezi-Owa, Agu-obu-Owa, Olo, Mgbagbu-Owa and Oghe are said to be worst affected.

#### **Ajali River, Its Farmlands Home To Enugu And Ebonyi Pump-Water And Cassava Since 1980s:**

The Ajali River is uniquely one of the cleanest river-water for healthy human consumption in the South-East, through which Enugu and Ebonyi States' pump-water schemes originated since 1980s. Until the Jihadist Fulani Mayhem swept across the area, Ajali River and its environs also housed one of the largest cashew industries in Enugu State and the entire South-East. The Great Ajali River (with decrease capacity during rainy seasons and increase capacity during dry seasons) lies between communities of Agu-obu-Owa (headquarters of Ezeagu Local Government Area) and Uwa-Imezi, joining their age-long farm settlements especially the Ife-Agu Imezi-Owa Community Farm Settlement. Communities of Mgbagbu-Owa and Olo also draw their natural goodies from the Great Ajali River, now desecrated by Jihadist Fulani Mayhem since 2010. As of 2009, cassava crops were produced in industrial quantity from fertile Ajali River Farmlands especially at Ife-Agu Imezi-Owa Community Farm Settlement and their major traders were from Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi. There also used to be "Eke-Abonuzu Imezi-Owa Community Cassava Market", the largest cassava market in Enugu State in the 1980s. Today, the Market, visited by our investigative team on Friday, Dec 12, 2025, has become a shadow of itself owing to Ezeagu Jihadist Fulani Mayhem dating back to 2010.

**Explaining The Six-Layered Structures Of Jihadist Fulani's Dens Of Terror In Ezeagu:** The six-layered Jihadist Fulani terror camps or dens of terror are headquartered at Agu-obu-Owa, close to Fatimah Secondary School and divided into six, with each headed by a Fulani Muslim leader or Alhaji and placed in charge of herds of cattle under designated Ezeagu communities and their forests. Among the six Fulani Muslim leaders (Alhajis) in charge, their head is called "Alhaji Sani" of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACABAN) who is also said to a resident of "Ama Hausa-Fulani" in the Ninth Mile part of Enugu State and has been fingered in the coordination of area's Jihadist Fulani reign of terror since 2010. As a result, the Ajali River and its Valley, a hitherto pride of the area in aquatic environment; has religiously been transformed into dens of terror against many communities of Ezeagu.

The Ezeagu Local Government Area in Enugu State is made up of about sixteen autonomous and semi-autonomous communities including: Umumba, Imezi-Owa, Ogwofia, Umaji, Umuagba-Owa, Ezema-Owa, Eziowa-Aguobu, Ozom-Aguobu, Ozom-Mgbagbu-Owa, Eziowa-Mgbagbu-Owa, Awha, Oghe and its villages, Olo, Owa, Umana and Obinofia. These sixteen communities and their forests are divided into six major layers of Jihadist Fulani leadership, headed by each of the six Fulani leaders or Alhajis under them the attacks have been coordinated especially since 2010; to the extent that there are estimated over 20 dens of Jihadist Fulani terror, scattered across the Local Government Area. According to a community leader who recently spoke to **Team Intersociety**, **“I have been attending security meetings at our Local Government Headquarters at Agu-obu-Owa-with representatives of various security agencies and MACABAN/Fulani leaders. Such meetings are also convened to broker peace between our communities and Fulani leaders. It was in one of such recent meetings that the Local Government Chairman told us that each of the six Fulani Alhajis should be held accountable for farm crops destroyed by his herds of cattle and compensate those whose farm crops were destroyed. Such directives have never been complied with; instead those Fulani Alhajis exhibit arrogance and called us unprintable names when approached, bragging that nothing will happen. They even threatened us with military attacks and police arrests for being ESN members and providing ESN with camps”.**

**Why Team Intersociety Responded To Ezeagu Distress Calls:** This advocacy intervention of ours had arisen following our recently discovered six-layered Fulani Jihadist groups that invaded, occupied and terrorized the Ajali River and its Valley and laid permanent siege on many surrounding communities especially the Ezeagu Communities of Imezi-Uwa, Agu-obu-Owa, Mgbagbu-Owa, Oha-Ndiagu and Olo and their forests since 2010, resulting religiously motivated violent attacks since 2016. **The received distress calls** followed our Special Report of Nov 10, 2025, cataloguing Jihadist Herdsmen attacks on twelve Anglican and two Catholic Church Parishes in Aguamede, Abor and Mgbuji areas of Eha-Amufu in Enugu State, resulting in the massacre of more than 117 parishioners, out of which, bodies of eight parishioners at various stages of decomposition were buried in one Church Compound alone. The Eha-Amufu Jihadist Fulani attacks emanated from Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen camps in neighbouring Benue State, perpetrated untracked between May 2021 and June 2025. **Team Intersociety** also in the Report disclosed how six AK-47 armed Jihadist Fulani Militants on Nov 7, 2025, opened fire on Onitsha-bound commercial vehicles heading to Enugu-forcing passengers to be stranded for hours at Nkwo-Ezeagu Market Square, from where they were later rescued by an armed security escort and safely escorted out of the danger zone.

**Survivors And Eyewitnesses Accounts:** *Team Intersociety spoke to about five concerned indigenes of the affected communities especially from Uwa-Imezi, Agu-obu-Owa, Oha-Ndiagu and Mgbagbu-Owa who informed us of the ongoing age-long attacks by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, which have been unchecked and swept under the carpet by successive and present Governments of Enugu State. Such inaction of the Government and security forces had emboldened the attackers and escalated such attacks, resulting in the killing of dozens of Christian indigenes and other non-indigenous Christians traveling through the area. There are also reports of abduction of over 100 indigenes and non-indigenes in recent years, with the long list of such victims including the abduction of Christian clerics including a Catholic Parish Priest abducted by Fulani Jihadists in Umana and killing of another Catholic Priest in Obinofia between 2022 and 2023.*

**Team Intersociety** led by Criminologist Emeka Umeagbalasi had on Friday, Dec 12, 2025, visited some key places in the affected Ezeagu Communities including the once thriving Eke-Abonuzu Community Market of Imezi-Uwa where we met Chief Linus Obi, a retired Police ASP, and Emeka Enyi, a seasoned local security guard. We also met and spoke with three others from Agu-obu-Uwa and Oha-Ndiagu who pleaded not to be named to avoid being tracked, arrested, framed and detained by the Government of Enugu State. **Team Intersociety** was taken round the once thriving Eke-Abonuzu Cassava Market and there was no single basket of cassava anywhere in the Market. We were further told that the Market had served for decades as the largest cassava market supplying cassava to traders from Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi. That was before 2010. Following incessant and coordinated attacks by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their leaders in the area especially, the once thriving cassava Market started declining and by 2020, the market had become a shadow of itself. We also gathered that the Ajali River and its surrounding community farmlands especially Ife-Agu Imezi-Owa Community Farm Settlement and those belonging to Agu-obu-Owa once served as largest cassava market for people of the area until the invasion of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their leaders since 2010 till date; to the extent that not less than 80% of their Ajali River-linked farm settlements have become a danger zone and a no-go area for people of the affected communities. Also discovered was the fact that all the short-cut roads or routes including bush-ways leading to the farmlands or settlements have been abandoned by locals because of Jihadist Fulani Mayhem, to the extent that they have to travel several kilometres through Enugu Ninth Mile to access Agu-obu-Owa headquarters of their Local Government Area.

According to Chief Linus Obi, a retired Police ASP, who is also a community leader and seasoned farmer, “I retired from service (police) in 2010 and invested all my gratuities in cassava farming, covering about four hectares of farmlands at our Ife-Agu Imezi-Owa Community Farm Settlement, only for Fulani Herdsmen and their leaders to invade the farm and uprooted all the cassava crops that I invested heavily to plant, to the extent that I did not recover anything. I went to then Government of Enugu State to complain and they brought press and camera men and in the end, nothing happened till date. I also reported to the police, all to no avail. As if that was not enough, I went and borrowed money from FADAMA and invested heavily again in 2011 and the same Fulani Herdsmen invaded again and destroyed all the cassava crops, after which I was forced to give up and vowed never to take such frustrating path again. I was even arrested by police and detained for days for raising a voice against Fulani Herdsmen-during which my mother died of heart attack”.

According to Enyi Emeka, a seasoned local security guard, “it was in the course of our series of security meetings at our Local Government headquarters at Agu-obu-Owa that we discovered that the Fulani Herdsmen occupation of Igbo Land forests, bushes and farmlands was not accidental and non-state actor driven alone. It was well planned and systematically coordinated with radical religious motives or undertones. For instance, in Ezeagu Local Government Area, there are six Fulani Alhajis who are also top leaders of the local unit of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria-MACABAN; with each assigning to be in charge of herds of Cattle in designated forest and communal living locations within the sixteen communities of Ezeagu Local Government Area. Government and security agencies including soldiers and police are fully aware of the destructive activities of the Fulani Herdsmen. Our farmlands or settlements are such that draw their source of high fertility and moisture from Ajali River, located about two kilometres away from our place of ancestral living”.

*Apart from Chief Obi Linus and Enyi Emeka that spoke to us, we also spoke to others who pleaded not to be named. **Team Intersociety** was told that several indigenes of the affected communities have in recent times or years suffered constant abductions, killings, disappearances and sexual violence by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen. Clear cases in point included the 2023 abduction and killing of Ejike Aniekwe, a community youth, abducted on his way home in Imezi-Owa Village route and taken into a nearby forest-where he was given several deep machete cuts after been blindfolded and had his hands tied behind his back and dumped to bleed to death. It took more than seven days of forest search for his decomposing body to be found. There was also a recent case of abduction of Mrs. Virginia Elobike, a respected mother of children from Imezi-Owa, who was abducted by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen along Seminary School Road between March and April 2025. She was disappeared for more than seven days and it took monetary contributions by her fellow market women and family members to raise more than N1m ransom demanded by the Jihadists before she was freed. She also lost one of her hands and suffered and still living with bruises of torture till date.*

*Two Catholic Reverend Fathers serving at Umana and Obinofia were also abducted by the Fulani Jihadists in the area between 2022 and 2023, during which the one serving at Umana-Ezeagu Parish escaped miraculously from his Fulani captors while the one serving at Obinofia lost his life. Available records also indicated that 'Nkwo-Ezeagu-Mgbagbu-Owa-Ezema-Imezi-Owa axis of Onitsha-Enugu Expressway have become the flashpoint of Fulani Herdsmen jihadist attacks in the past fifteen years, during more than 100 Ezeagu indigenes and non-indigenes especially travellers have been abducted and scores killed especially after been abducted and taken into nearby forests-where they are starved or tortured to death. The list of flashpoints of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen attacks around Ezeagu axis included Awka-Ebenebe-Ezeagu and Ugwuoba-Oji River-Umumba-Ezeagu axis-where dozens including Christian clerics have been abducted and scores killed in captivity since 2010. Cases of sexual violence and harassment by Fulani Jihadists visited upon Igbo Christian women including farmers and travellers are also on steady increase.*

**Why Government And Security Agencies Refused To Stop The Ezeagu Fulani Mayhem:** From the accounts of eyewitnesses and attack survivors, the successive and present Governments of Enugu State, the Enugu State Police Command and the authorities of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army have severally turned blind eyes and refused more than 20 times called upon, to address the Ezeagu Jihadist Fulani Mayhem; to the extent that more than fifty strong worded written representations have been lodged before various public and private quarters by key leaders of the affected communities, the attack victims and relatives of the abducted and disappeared and the slain. It was our further finding that more than 20 of such written representations have been lodged at various Enugu Government, Police and Military quarters across the State. These state actor quarters written to since 2010 included police tactical, police intelligence, police investigative and police operational authorities and headquarters of the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu State. Such written representations, backed with concrete facts had highlighted the unchecked and untamed jihadist activities of Fulani Herdsmen and their leaders in Ezeagu Local Government Area which had affected more than 85% of its sixteen autonomous or semi-autonomous communities; to the extent that none of such written representations has been acted upon till date.

Instead of frontally addressing the victims' grave concerns and restoring them to their ancestral lands and arresting and prosecuting the culpable Fulani Jihadists and their leaders, some of these petitioners shockingly informed **Team Intersociety** that they were told in confidence by some senior government, police and military officials that "for Enugu State Government and security agencies to respond swiftly, such complaints arising from such attacks should be changed and their blames shifted to ESN or IPOB (a security forces operational policy in the East since August 2015)".

#### **Ezeagu Fulani Alhajis Procured 82 Army Division To Bomb Ajali River Valley And Environs:**

One of the most shocking discoveries made by **Team Intersociety** was how Fulani leaders of the Ezeagu Dens of Fulani Terror procured the authorities of the Army 82 Division in Enugu to constantly aid their jihadist terror activities in Ezeagu Local Government Area over the years. It is also found that the Enugu Army 82 Division has never been under a South-East or South-South senior military officer as General Officer Commanding since July 2015. In other words, all the past GOCs of the Enugu 82 Army Division have been drawn from senior Army officers of Northern Muslim extraction and few others drawn from South-West extraction including the current GOC, Major Gen Oluremi A. Fadairo. Facts available to **Team Intersociety** further indicated that the more than fifteen years (since 2010) of inaction by successive and present Governments of Enugu State and security agencies regarding the Ezeagu Jihadist Fulani Mayhem has forced some youths to become aggrieved and others to become conspirators and informants-creating an atmosphere of fear and terror in the affected communities. The above is to the extent that the anger and frustrations of the indigenes of the affected areas reached a boiling point after the Nov 7, 2025 Jihadist Fulani onslaught on travellers and indigenes along Nkwo-Ezeagu-Ezema-Mgbagbu-Owa axis of the Onitsha-Enugu Expressway. The mass abduction operation by Fulani Jihadists was foiled by armed security escorting their boss to Enugu. Before then, Jihadist Fulani abductions, disappearances and captivity deaths have regularly been reported in the area; despite the high number of police and military roadblocks. **Team Intersociety** on Friday, Dec 12, 2025 counted not less than ten police and military roadblocks within the axis with less than two kilometres' distance separated by a dual carriage way. Locals from Mgbagbu-Owa and Ezema-Imezi-Owa told **Team Intersociety** that the drafted roadblock police and military personnel are interested in collecting bribes from motorists and abscond whenever armed Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen strike and re-appear after they have operated to continue their extortionist toll collection and brutality activities.

**Military Bombardments In Aid Of Ezeagu Jihadist Fulani Mayhem:** Coupled with the age-long inaction of the Government and security agencies, in addition to reports of Jihadist Fulani attacks in the affected area almost on daily basis, some aggrieved youths of the affected communities decided to confront the Fulani cows by attacking them sometime in Nov 2025. Surprisingly and shockingly, the Nigerian Army of 82 Division in Enugu, responded heavily in defence of the Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and their leaders by laying siege on Agu-obu-Owa and environs. The area and its Ajali River Valley came under military attacks after soldiers of the 82 Army Division invaded the area with armoured cars and military trucks flooded with RPGs and other war-grade rifles. The soldiers also deployed helicopter gunships and war jets, with which they have been bombing the Ajali River Valley and surrounding farmlands located in Agu-obu-Owa and Imezi-Owa Communities. The bombardments have commenced around mid Nov 2025, recording more than four major daily bombardments. According to local observers, the authorities of the Enugu Army 82 Division claimed that "the attackers of the Fulani cows are members of the ESN hiding inside the Ajali River Valley and its surrounding farmlands".

According to locals, as of Friday, Dec 12, 2025, the Nigerian Military had air-bombed the area more than four times on daily basis especially during late night and early morning hours. There has also been constant flying of military helicopters frightening and terrifying the indigenes of many of the affected communities especially Imezi-Owa, Oha-Ndiagu, Olo, Agu-Obu-Owa and Mgbagbu-Owa and fears are ripe that the pro-Jihadist Fulani Nigerian Army operation in the area will soon escalate to indiscriminate arrest, abduction, disappearance, torture/extrajudicial killing of defenceless indigenes of the affected Ezeagu communities especially Christmas/New Year returnees. **Team Intersociety** was further informed by locals that the Enugu Army 82 Division was procured by the Ezeagu Fulani Alhajis led by Alhaji Sani, alleging that “ESN carried out recent attack on their cows”. The extent of damage done to livelihoods, dwelling houses and the death tolls brought about by Enugu Army 82 Division in its ongoing pro-Fulani bombardments is yet to be ascertained. Our investigators also saw various military war-grade equipment including armoured tanks and personnel assembled at Agu-Obu-Owa Headquarters of Ezeagu Local Government Area.

**Team Intersociety** had in our Special Investigative Report of June 10, 2025 found that the Jihadist Fulani Militants and allied others, armed with AK-47s have made widespread incursions and occupied not less than 950 Igbo Land forest locations in at least 62 of the 95 Local Government Areas allocated to South-East Region, populated by more than 95% Christians. The not less than 950 forest locations are found in about 770-800 of 1,940 Igbo autonomous communities in the South-East. Such incursions are also found to have been driven by radical Islamism-with intent to invade, occupy, conquer, terrorize, convert and Islamize the Igbo Land and her more than 95% Christian population by the Year 2075.

**Enugu State:** The estimated 250 forest locations and their road enclaves in the affected 13 Local Government Areas involved include: Oji River, Awgu, Aninri, Enugu West, Enugu East, Nsukka (Ugwuogo-Nike/Opi-Nsukka axis), Uzo-Uwani, Isi-Uzo, Ezeagu, Nkanu East, Nkanu West, Igbo-Eze North and Igbo-Eze South; representing about 45% of the communities in the State under Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation.

**Imo State:** The State is home to second largest number of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation locations in the South-East; with estimated 230 locations spreading across about 300 communities in at least 17 Local Government Areas, out of the State's existing 700 autonomous communities and 27 Local Government Areas. The affected Local Government Areas involved include: Onuimo, Owerri West, Owerri North, Okigwe, Ehime Mbano, Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta, Ideato South, Ideato North. **Abia State:** The State is home to third largest number of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation locations in the South-East; with estimated 180 locations spreading across about 260 communities across at least 14 Local Government Areas in the State, out of its existing 771 autonomous communities and 17 Local Government Areas. The affected 14 Local Government Areas include: Aba North, Aba South, Arochuku, Bende, Isiala-Ngwa South, Isiala-Ngwa North, Obingwa, Isikwuato, Ohafia, Ukwu East, Ukwu West, Umuahia South, Umuahia North and Umunneochi.

**Anambra State:** The State is home to fourth largest number of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation locations in the South-East; with about 160 locations spreading across about 70 communities in at least 12 Local Government Areas, out of the State's existing 183 autonomous communities and 21 Local Government Areas. The affected 12 Local Government Areas include Awka North, Awka South, Orumba North, Orumba South, Idemmili South, Oyi, Ayamelum, Anambra East, Anambra West, Ogbaru, Njikoka and Dunukofia-where they have a big terror camp behind Zone 13 Headquarters of the Nigeria Police Force and Ukwulu Forest and environs.

**Ebonyi State:** The State is home to fifth largest number of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation locations in the South-East; with about 130 locations spreading across about 50 communities in at least 6 Local Government Areas, out of the State's existing 96 autonomous communities and 13 Local Government Areas. The affected 6 Local Government Areas include: Ishielu, Ohaukwu, Ishiagu (Ivo LGA), Izzi, Ikwo and Onicha; representing about 54% of the communities especially the State's boundary-communities bordering Benue and Cross River States; affected by Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen occupation or threats of attack or occupation.

**Signed:**

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